

# Pezeshkian calls for long-term focus on rail transport to boost transit role

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that the country should prioritize expanding its rail network in the long term, as part of efforts to improve transport corridors and strengthen regional connectivity. "While pursuing the approved plans for expanding the country's highway and road network, we should focus long-term on expanding the country's rail transport," Pezeshkian said during an unannounced visit to the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development in Tehran, according to IRNA. He emphasized the importance of acquiring land with enough width to allow for future rail construction alongside major transit highways. "For developing transit corridors through the country, the required land for the routes should be ac-

quired with a width of one kilometer so that, if needed in the future, railways can be built alongside these transit highways," he said. The president also called for empowering local officials in corridor development projects. "In implementing corridor projects, be sure to involve local authorities and assign responsibilities to them — this way we will face fewer problems during project execution," he added. Pezeshkian said Iran should aim to integrate regional transit routes to facilitate goods movement across Central Asia, saying it would bring many benefits and advantages for the country. Citing the North-South Corridor, he said its development could transform regional logistics.

"If we can establish it, the transportation that can be created between Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Russia and Azerbaijan will make waves," Pezeshkian said. The North-South Corridor is a multi-modal transport route designed to connect Central Asia and Russia to India, the Persian Gulf and South Asia. It runs through Iran, linking northern countries such as Russia and the Caucasus to southern Iranian ports like Bandar Abbas and Chabahar, before continuing by sea to India. By integrating rail, road, and maritime links, the corridor is expected to reduce both time and cost of freight movement between northern and southern Eurasia, enhancing Iran's strategic role in regional trade and transit.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (C-R) hold talks with Roads Minister Farzaneh Sadeq and other senior managers during an unannounced visit to the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development on July 27, 2025. [president.ir](http://president.ir)

## ECO chief urges facile vehicle transit among members

### Economy Desk

The secretary-general of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) emphasized the need to facilitate the cross-border movement of tourists and vehicles among ECO member countries during a meeting with the head of the Tourism and Automobile Association of the Islamic Republic of Iran. ECO Secretary-General Asad Majeed Khan held talks with Head of the Touring and Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI) Mohammad Hossein Sufi, at the ECO secretariat in Tehran, IRNA reported.



ECO Secretary-General Asad Majeed Khan (R) and Head of the Touring and Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI) Mohammad Hossein Sufi display a certificate of appreciation following their meeting at the ECO secretariat in Tehran on July 27, 2025. [IRNA](http://irna.ir)

During the meeting, discussions were held on enhancing regional cooperation in the fields of tourism, transportation, and trade among ECO member states. Throughout the meeting, both sides exchanged views on potential initiatives to promote travel and tourism across the ECO region. The talks also covered ways to simplify the cross-border movement of tourists and vehicles, leveraging existing mechanisms within ECO. The ECO secretary-general

welcomed the proposals presented by the TACI and underscored the importance of joint efforts to strengthen intra-regional tourism.

The parties concurred on exploring more opportunities for collaboration and engaging stakeholders to advance these goals within the ECO framework. The Iranian tourism and automobile association plays a key role in facilitating travel for tourists and vehicle owners within Iran and beyond, supporting smoother transit and tourism operations.

## Minister criticizes power cuts to self-sufficient industries

### Economy Desk

Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade criticized electricity cuts and restrictions imposed on industries that generate their own power, emphasizing the necessity of prioritizing this electricity for consumption within the production units themselves. Mohammad Atabak stated on Sunday "Sustainable production is the backbone of the country's economy, adding, "Revenue from production is the only source of high-powered, harmless money for the national economy that can serve as the driving engine for growth and development in the country," IRNA reported. Referring to challenges in electricity supply for industrial units, he further noted, "The country's industries should not face unfair restrictions in accessing vital energy like electricity. Cutting or restricting power to industries not only reduces production and increases unemployment but also deals a serious blow to the national supply chain and exports." Also, according to ISNA, with the intensifying energy shortage crisis in Iran, scheduled power outages in industrial zones have increased from two to three days per week, causing

problems for small industries. The industry minister also referenced industrial efforts to launch solar and combined-cycle power plants, stating, "Imposing such restrictions on self-sufficient industries constitutes unfair treatment towards shareholders and will breed distrust in investment while discouraging industries from cooperating in resolving the energy imbalance." Atabak stressed, "Electricity generated by industrial units themselves must be used to meet the needs of those same units," adding, "Production and industry are the main pillars of the country's development and cannot be ignored in energy policies." Concluding his remarks, the minister criticized energy reduction programs in the industrial sector, calling for fair and targeted utilization of electricity resources by industries and a review of energy allocation policies. Meanwhile, at a joint meeting with senior officials of the country's water and electricity industry held on Sunday, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi emphasized the necessity of supporting electricity supply to industries with the aim of increasing production capacity. He noted, "During the hot season of the current year, 6%

more electricity was supplied to industries. This measure was achieved through implementing consumption management in various sectors, including households and administrative offices, and increasing power production capacity."

### Growing demand for plant construction

The Head of the Energy-Intensive Industries Power Plant Construction Project at Tavanir (Iran's Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Company) also reported increased interest from energy-intensive industries in building power plants and simultaneously urged greater movement by these industries towards developing renewable power plants. Mehdi Moqimzadeh stated, "Preliminary permits have been issued for 19,357 megawatts (MW) of power plant capacity, of which approximately 6,000 MW will be connected to the national electricity grid by the end of the next Iranian year 1405 (March 20, 2027)." "Furthermore, applications for 9,596 MW of new power plant construction have been submitted, increasing the total requested capacity to approximately 30,000 MW," he added. The project head noted that "Of this total capacity, 8,080 MW is



Mohammad Atabak  
[IRNA](http://irna.ir)

under construction or has been implemented." He continued, "From this figure, about 2,320 MW of power plants have been fully commissioned so far, and another 3,570 MW is on the verge of starting construction. Including this capacity and their entry into the implementation phase, the total power plants under development by energy-intensive industries will reach approximately 11,500 MW." He stated, "According to plans, approximately 1,763 MW of new power plants will come online by the end of the current Iranian year 1404 (March 20, 2026), and another 2,000 MW will be added by the end of 1405. This will bring the total synchronized capacity of energy-intensive industries with the national grid to 6,000 MW, playing a very significant role in reducing pressure on the national electricity grid in the coming years."

## Tavanir CEO: Wednesday closures can save 40,000 MWh

### Economy Desk

The head of Iran's Power Generation, Transmission, and Distribution Company (Tavanir) reported a significant reduction in electricity consumption following the closure on last Wednesday (July 23), stating, "A 40,000 megawatt-hour (MWh) saving in electricity is achievable by closing on Wednesdays."

In a joint meeting with Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi, and senior officials of the country's water and electricity industry held at Tavanir, Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi highlighted the positive impact of the official closure last Wednesday on reducing power consumption in half of the country's provinces, noting, "On that day, an average reduction of about 1,500 megawatts in electricity consumption was recorded, equivalent to one and a half times the output of a

nuclear power plant," IRNA reported. He added that the consumption reduction was not limited to Wednesday alone but continued from the preceding Tuesday with the start of public travel, as well as on Thursday and Friday. The Tavanir CEO stated that the total saving in hydroelectric power plant generation during these days amounted to about 40,000 MWh, further adding, "This amount of saving will play an important role in managing the grid load, especially at the end of the hot season." Rajabi Mashhadi, referencing global experiences, noted, "In many countries, official holidays are used as a lever to reduce electricity consumption during peak heat and cold periods." "Single-day closures, if properly planned, can significantly assist the electricity industry and grid stability."



### Closures in emergencies are 'inevitable'

Addressing the meeting, the head of the Administrative and Recruitment Organization stated that closing government agencies has never been the government's first option and that the government

opposes the immediate halt of employee activities. However, in acute and emergency situations, such as high water and electricity consumption in Tehran, this measure was adopted as an assisting solution. According to ISNA, Alaeddin

Rafizadeh, referring to the specific energy consumption conditions in recent weeks, said, "Although we faced shortages in the water and electricity sector and were forced to impose some outages, these actions were taken with the aim of sustaining services to the people." He expressed hope that with better management and continuous measures by the Ministry of Energy, the country would stay away from crises. According to the vice president, "Assessments by the Ministry of Energy show that last Wednesday's closure played an effective role in reducing water and electricity consumption, and given the concerning state of water reserves and the increase in electricity demand, these closures have a positive role in managing the current situation." Meanwhile, the energy minister said that the recent closures resulted in "418,000 cubic meters of

water savings." Abbas Aliabadi stated that the cooperation of household subscribers with the water and electricity industry plays a key role in passing the hot season without challenge and maximizing the supply of water and electricity to various sectors. Aliabadi, referring to the status of water and electricity consumption and the importance of resource management, added, "84 percent of Tehran's water subscribers are households, highlighting the necessity of this sector's cooperation in water conservation." In the current water year, the dams supplying drinking water to Tehran and Alborz provinces have faced a significant reduction in reserves. The Karaj Dam, with a decline of over 60%, and the Taleqan Dam, with a 33% reduction compared to last year, are currently in a fragile state.